



FY22 Judicial Branch Budget Presentation

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State Court Administrator



Iowa Judicial Branch Overview



Judicial Branch People

Judges and Magistrates use their legal expertise and knowledge to impartially apply laws to serve the public.

Clerks of Court and Clerk Staff oversee the operations of the clerks' offices in each of Iowa's county courthouses. Across 99 counties, clerks' office staff perform a wide variety of tasks including: processing and maintaining all documents filed with the court; collecting and processing fines, fees, and restitution; assisting citizens with filing documents; and sharing court information with state agencies.

Juvenile Court Officers and their staff protect the public by working directly with delinquent youths and their families to develop skills needed to address negative behaviors.

Court Reporters keep the record of trials, hearings, and court proceedings and provide administrative support to judges.



Judicial Branch People

Court Administrators and their staff help schedule trials and manage the business side of the courts, such as human resources, accounting, purchasing, information technology, and training and education.

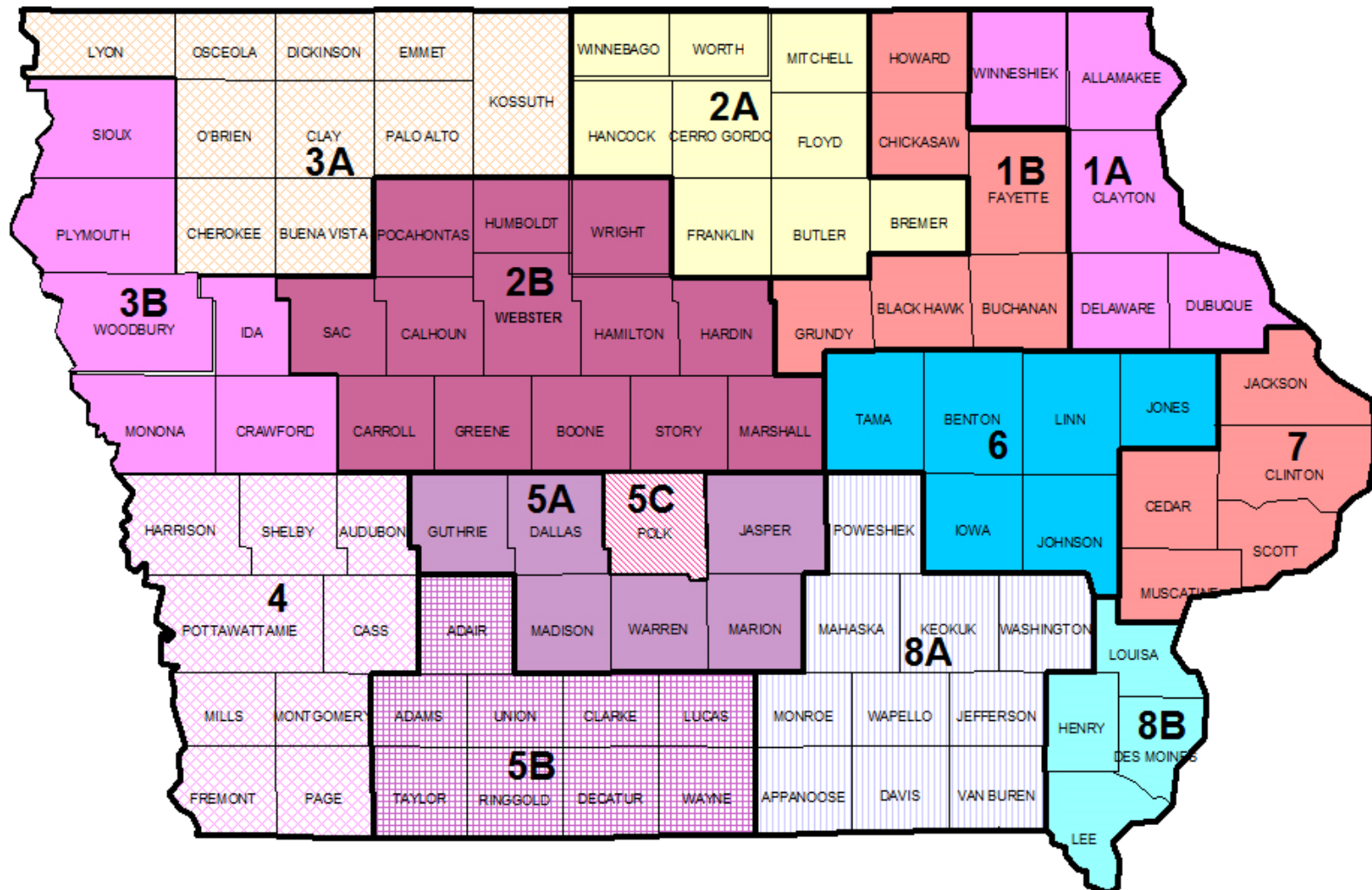
Judicial Specialists conduct scheduling conferences, prepare scheduling and other orders, and assist with jurors and jury trials and other court proceedings.

Information Technology Professionals provide ongoing maintenance, support, refinement, and improvement of the subsystems that comprise the Electronic Document Management System as well as other systems.

Law Clerks are attorneys who conduct legal research and analysis, draft routine court orders, and perform other law-related duties.



Judicial Election Districts





Workload Staffing Formulas



Judicial and Court Support Staff Formulas

- **“Weighted caseload” formulas** are used to determine the staffing needs for **judges, magistrates, juvenile court officers, and clerks’ offices.**
- Based on **work-time studies** – conducted by consultants from the National Center for State Courts – to determine the **average amount of time** judges and other staff spend on each of several different case types each year.
- The average time on each case type (the **case weight**) **is multiplied** by the number of filings of each of those case types to estimate the average annual amount of work-time (translated into **full-time equivalent judges or other staff**) needed to handle the workload.
- The filings for the weighted caseload calculations **are updated** each year.
- **A new work time study** is conducted about every eight years to determine the average time factors for the case weights.



National Center for State Courts Judicial Officer Workload Formula

	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	State
Judges <u>needed</u> per caseload formula	23.1	28.5	23.2	17.4	53.1	25.5	22.7	22.2	<u>215.6</u>
<u>Actual</u> number Judges	23.5	27.5	20.8	12.8	45.8	20.8	17.0	18.0	<u>186.0</u>
Difference	0.4	-1.0	-2.4	-4.6	-7.3	-4.8	-5.7	-4.2	-29.6
% diff.	2%	-4%	-10%	-27%	-14%	-19%	-25%	-19%	-14%

D = judicial district



National Center for State Courts District Court Clerk and Case Scheduling Staff Workload Formula

	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	Total
FTE staff <u>needed</u> per caseload formula	89.6	106.2	86.3	59.9	189.1	95.0	81.4	72.5	<u>780.0</u>
FTE staff <u>authorized</u> per budget	91.2	104.5	83.6	60.0	182.5	96.8	75.8	68.0	<u>762.5</u>
Difference	1.7	-1.8	-2.6	0.2	-6.7	1.9	-5.6	-4.5	-17.5
% difference	2%	-2%	-3%	0%	-4%	2%	-7%	-6%	-2%

D = judicial district

FTE = full time equivalent employee



National Center for State Courts

Juvenile Court Officers Workload Formula

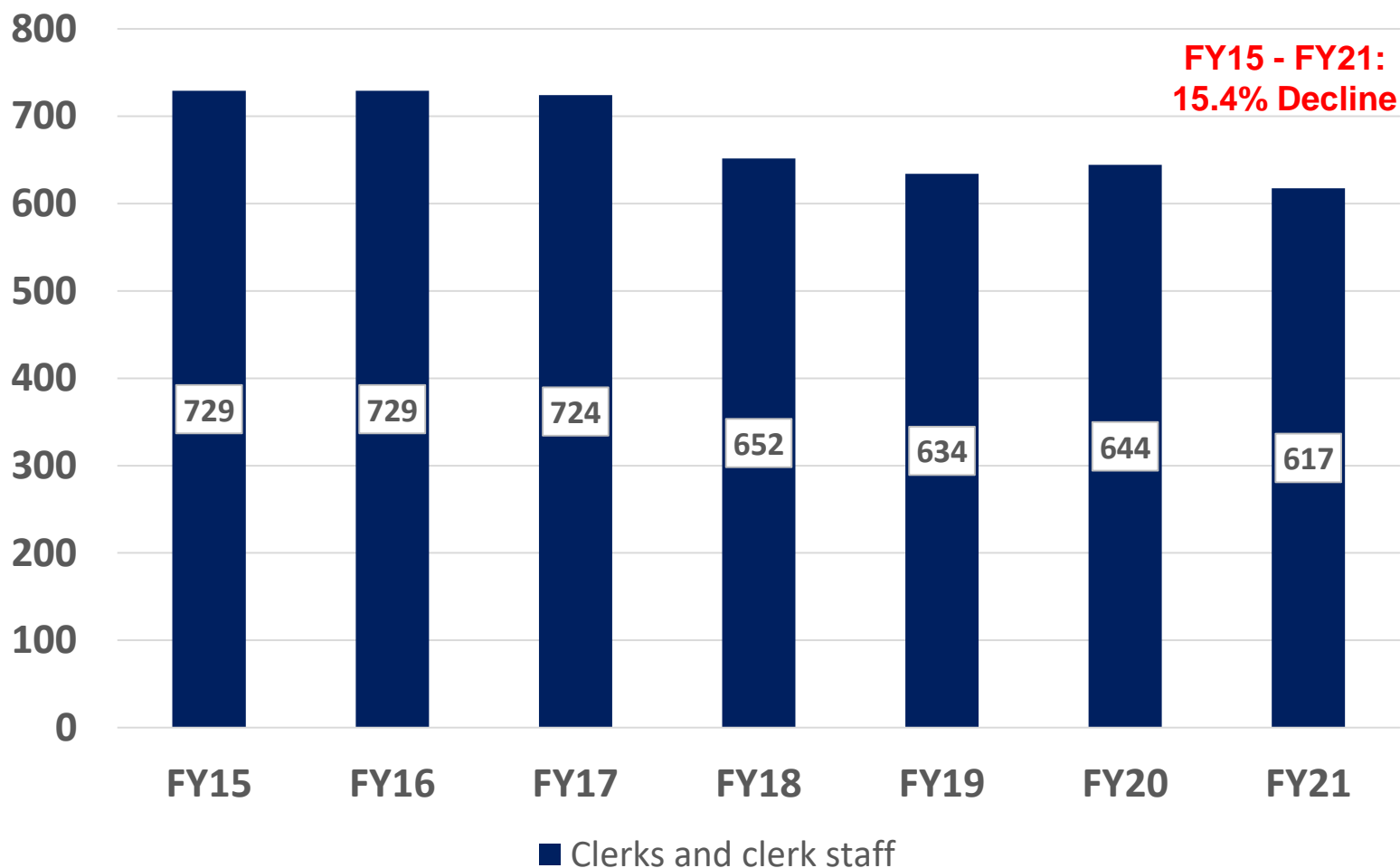
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	State Total
FTE JCOs needed per caseload formula	23.9	27.8	23	12.7	53.6	27.2	21	17.7	<u>206.9</u>
Actual number of JCO positions (Budgeted for FY21)	20	26	25	13	45	25	19	16	<u>189</u>
Difference	-3.9	-1.8	-2	0.3	-8.6	-2.2	-2	-1.7	-18
% difference	-16%	-6%	9%	2%	-16%	-8%	-10%	-10%	-9%

D = judicial district

FTE = full time equivalent employee



Budgeted clerks and clerk staff

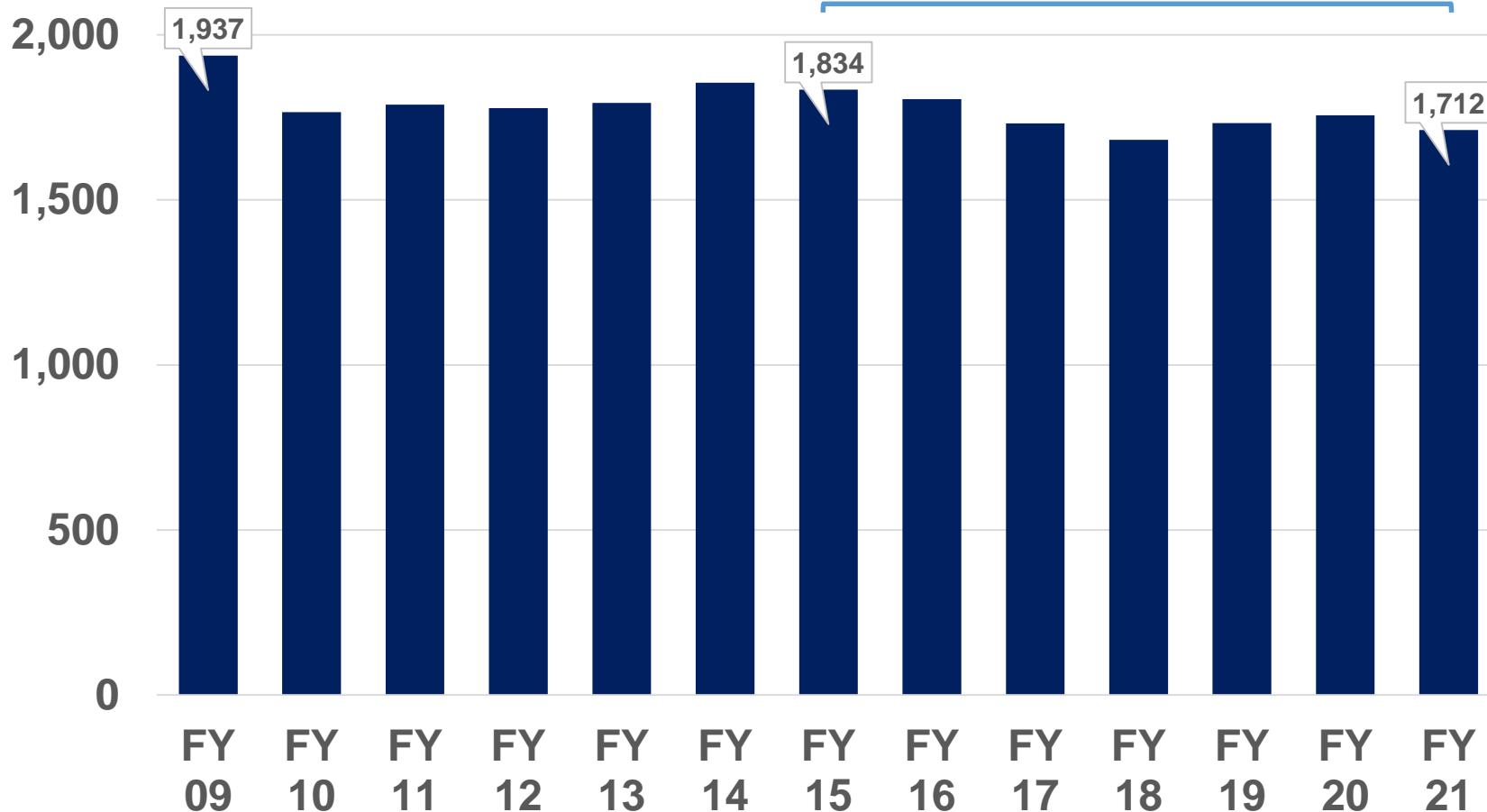




Judicial Branch Employees: FY 09-FY 21

FY09 - FY21: 11.6% Decline

FY15 - FY21: 6.7% Decline





Case Filing Trends



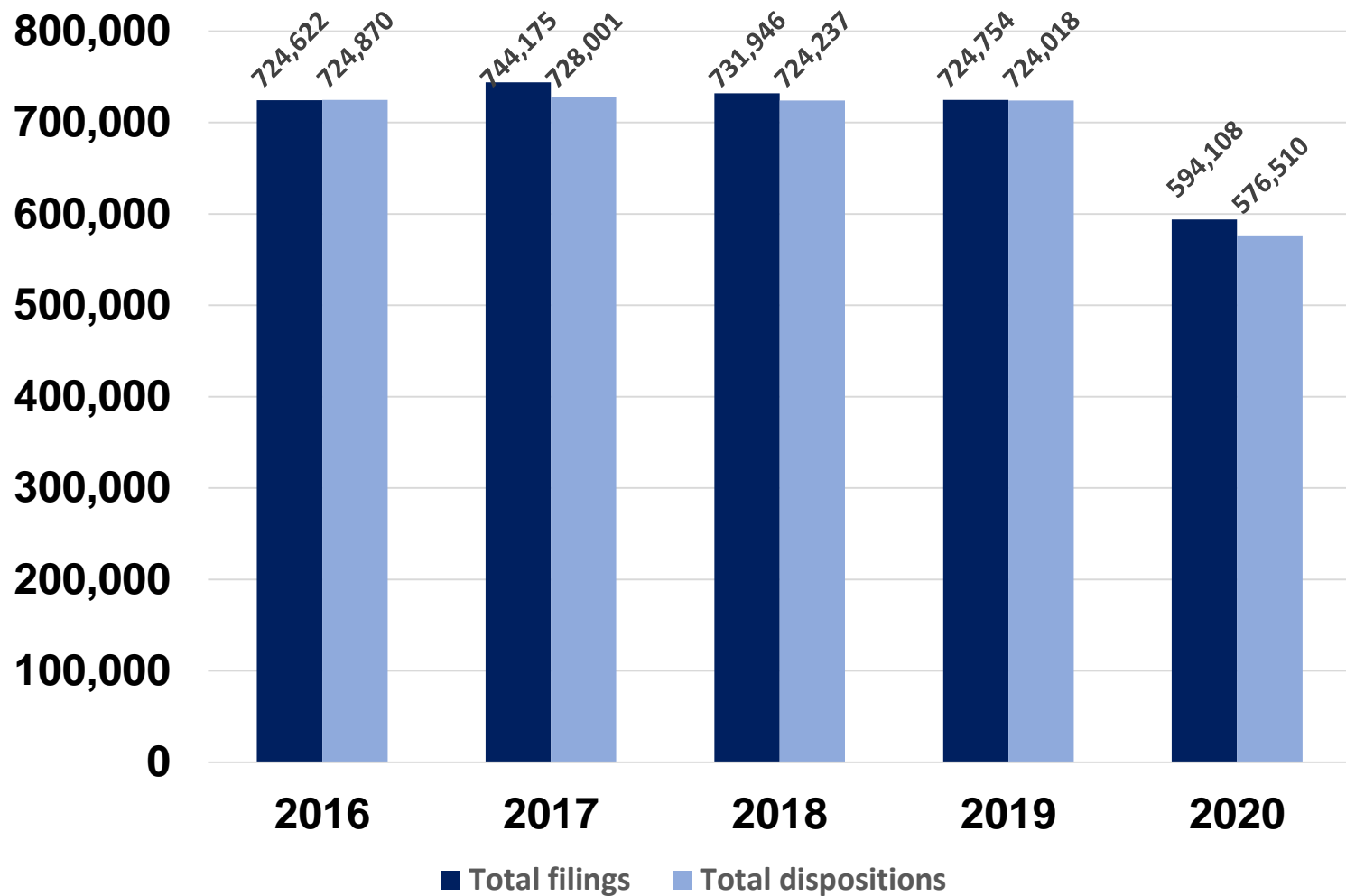
Filings by Case Type

2020 Calendar Year Filings

Domestic	• 29,672	Simple Misdemeanors	• 378,799
Tort	• 2,734	Indictable Criminal	• 63,209
Other Civil	• 17,104	Probate	• 24,776
Small Claims & FEDs	• 67,927	Juvenile	• 9,887
Total Filings		• 594,108	

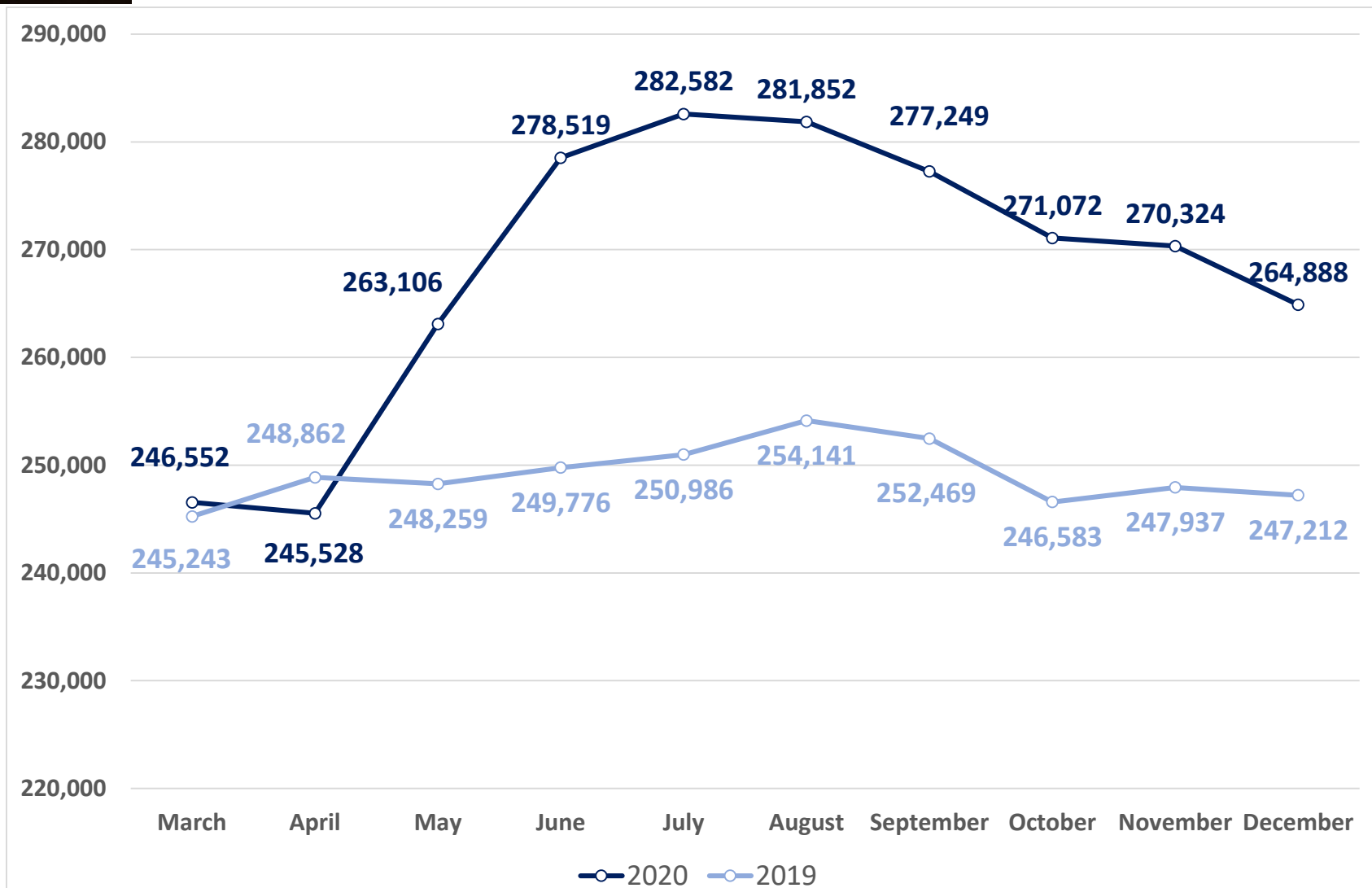


Five Year Case Filing & Disposition Trend





Pending Cases

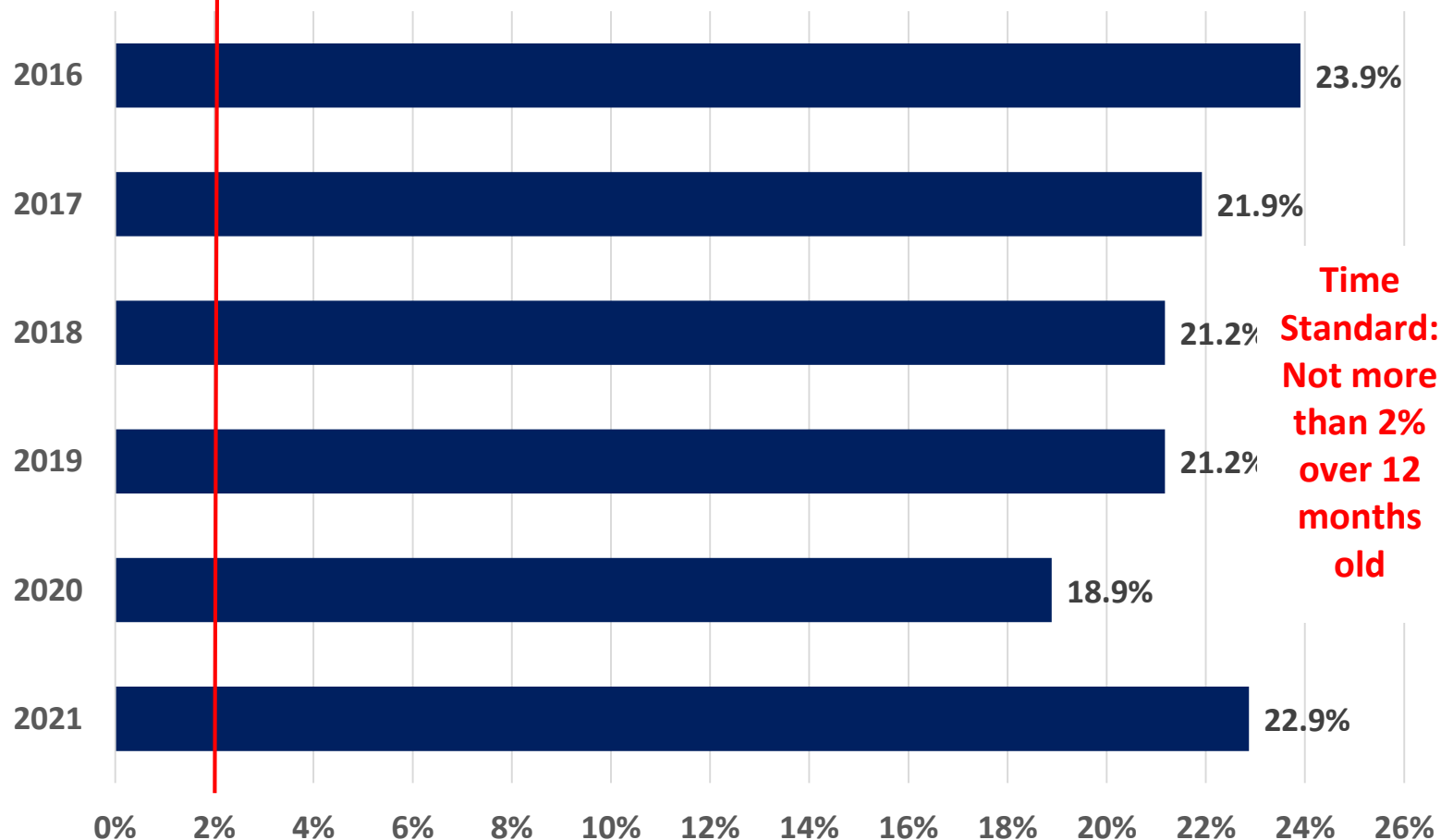




Age of Pending Cases

Felony criminal cases:

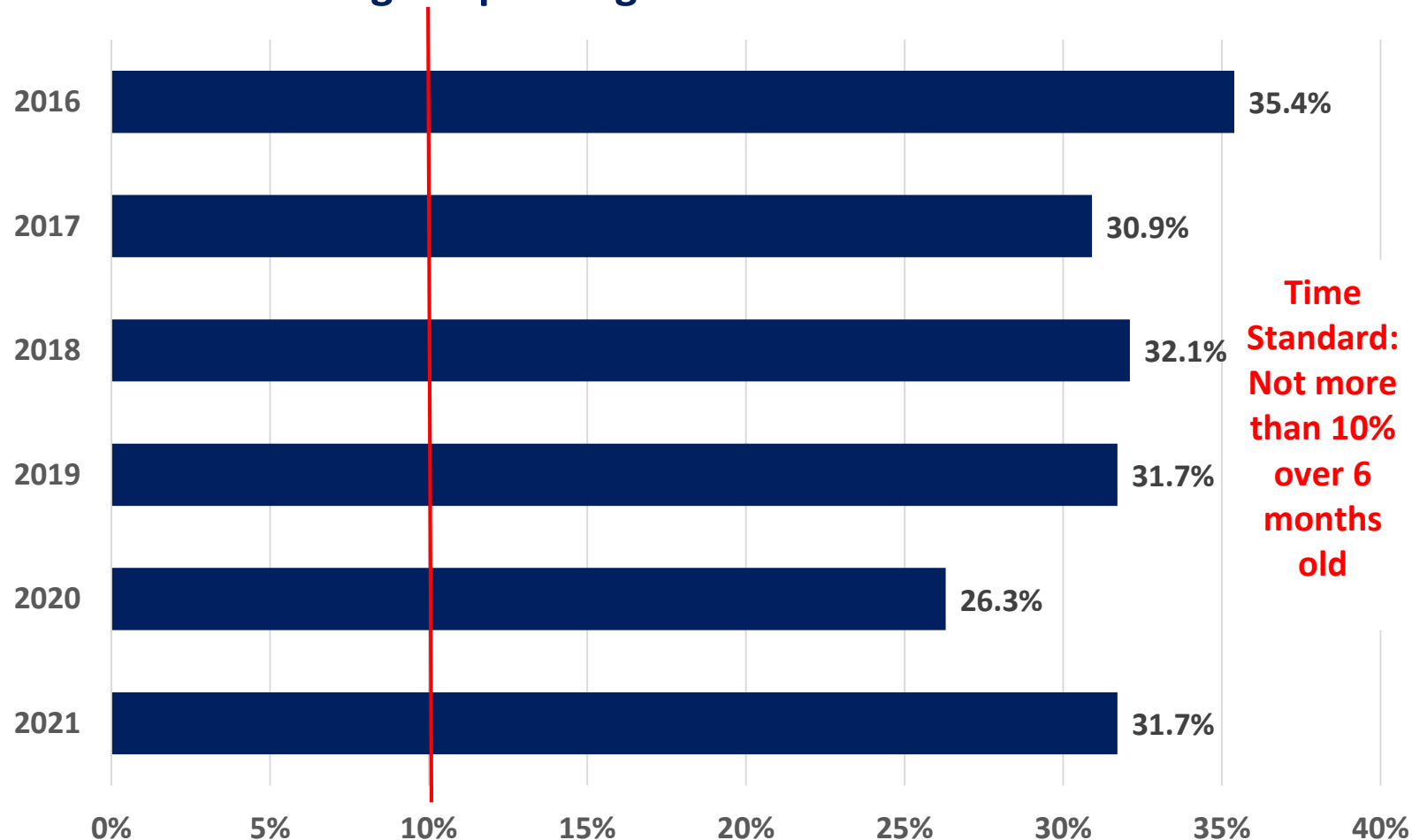
Percentage of pending cases more than 12 months old





Age of Pending Cases

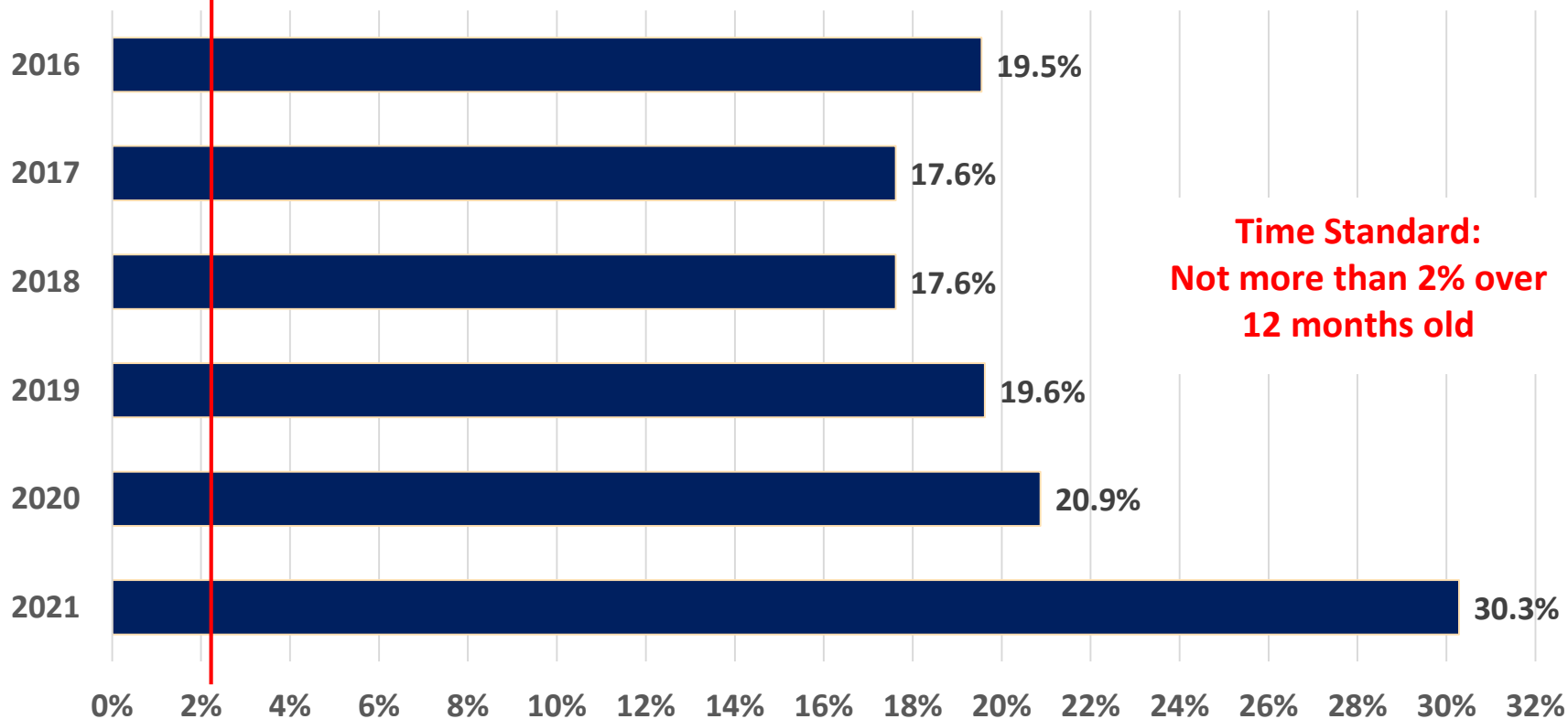
**Indictable misdemeanor criminal cases:
Percentage of pending cases more than 6 months old**





Age of Pending Cases

Domestic relations - dissolution, custody, paternity: Percentage of pending cases more than 12 months old

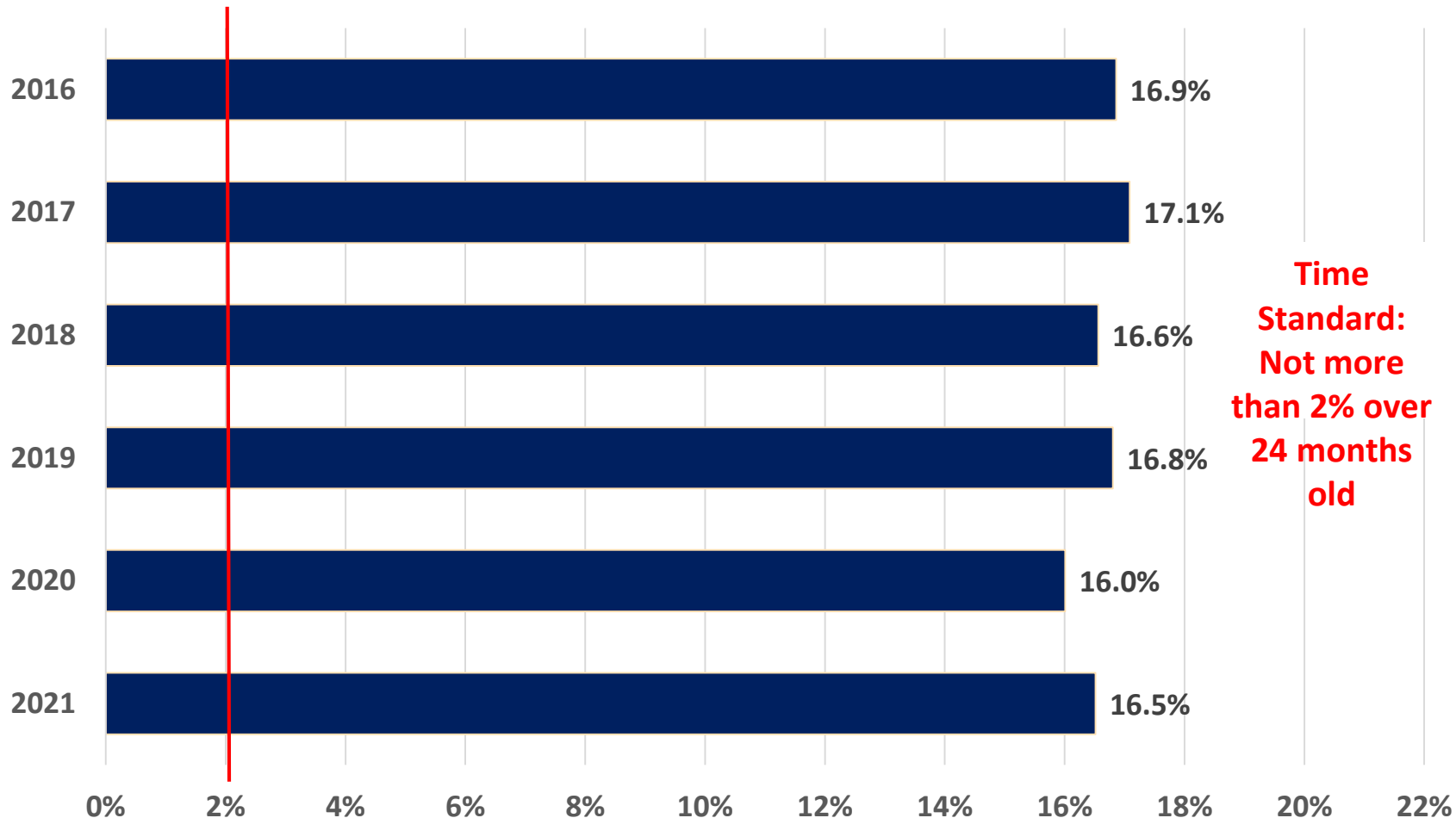




Age of Pending Cases

Probate - full estates:

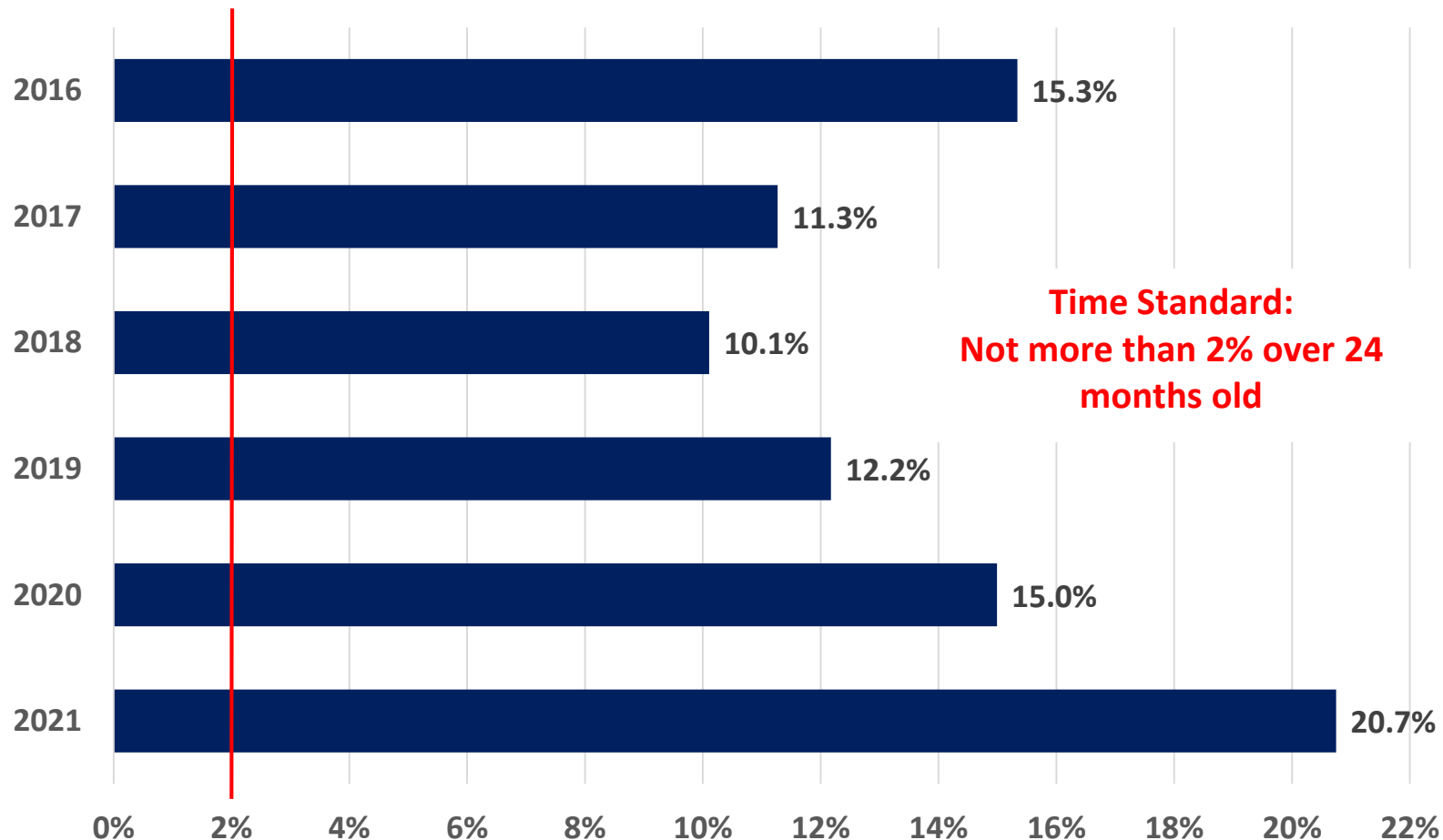
Percentage of pending cases older than 24 months





Age of Pending Cases

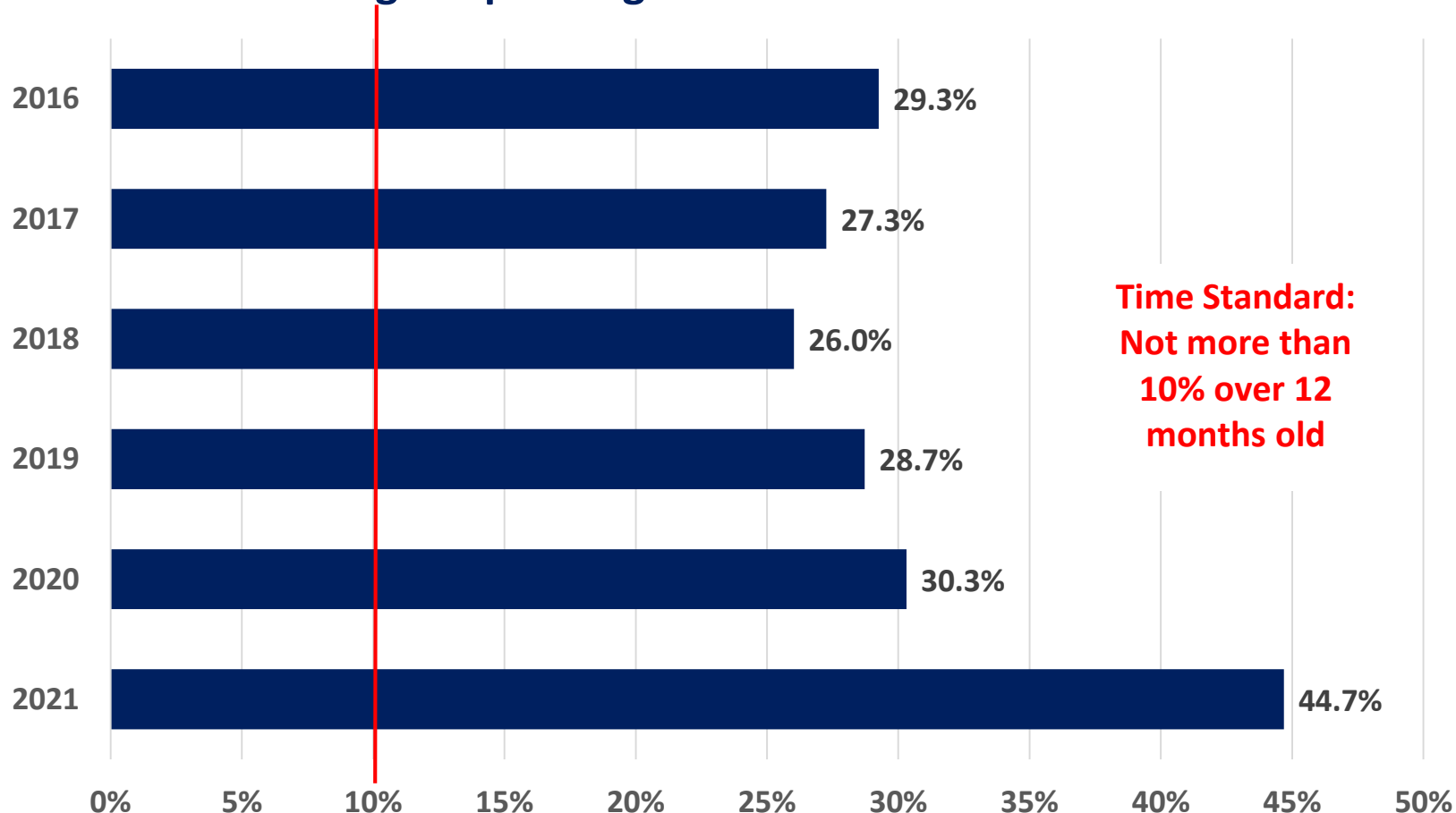
Complex civil cases: Percentage of pending cases more than 24 months old





Age of Pending Cases

Regular civil cases: Percentage of pending cases more than 12 months old





**COVID-19
Expenditures:
All sources & CARES
Act detail**



COVID-19 Expenditures

Expenditures by Category		Exp. by Payment Source	
Category/Type	Total	Payment Source	Funding Source
Hardware	\$3,148,705	CARES - AV	\$152,565
Software	\$95,028	CARES - COVID signage	\$11,656
Network	\$44,880	CARES - Drug court remote participation solution	\$447,014
PPE	\$866,639	CARES - Education supports for JCS youth	\$26,238
Misc.	\$1,276,721	CARES - Evidence	\$3,689,625
TOTAL	\$5,431,973	CARES - ICN conference calls	\$118,937
		CARES - Interactive forms	\$31,887
		CARES - JCS iPads	\$4,521
		CARES - JCS printers/scanners	\$4,095
		CARES - Misc	\$283,717
		CARES - Phones	\$26,037
		CARES - Plexiglass barriers	\$36,000
		CARES - PPE	\$211,782
		CARES - Tables, desks, chairs for social distancing	\$0
		CARES - Text messaging for summoning	\$174
		General Fund	\$175,607
		Grant (CESF)	\$134,825
		IT Project Funds	\$62,627
		Children's Justice	\$702
		OPR	\$13,964
		CARES Subtotal	\$5,044,248
		Non-CARES Subtotal	\$387,725
		TOTAL	\$5,431,973
*Table reflects encumbrances as of 2/5/2021			



CARES Act Expenditures

Category	Revised Category Total	Encumbrances to Date	Unencumbered Balance Remaining
CARES - AV	\$433,064	\$152,565	\$280,499
CARES - Evidence	\$4,500,000	\$3,689,625	\$810,375
CARES - JCS iPads	\$4,521	\$4,521	\$0
CARES - JCS printers/scanners	\$4,095	\$4,095	\$0
CARES - Misc	\$283,717	\$283,717	\$0
CARES - Phones	\$26,436	\$26,037	\$399
CARES - PPE	\$249,023	\$211,782	\$37,242
CARES - COVID signage	\$11,657	\$11,656	\$0
CARES - Drug court remote participation solution	\$482,231	\$447,014	\$35,217
CARES - Education supports for JCS youth	\$67,905	\$26,238	\$41,667
CARES - ICN conference calls	\$163,383	\$118,937	\$44,446
CARES - Interactive forms	\$52,000	\$31,887	\$20,113
CARES - Plexiglass barriers	\$51,126	\$36,000	\$15,126
CARES - Tables, desks, chairs for social distancing	\$6,907	\$0	\$6,907
CARES - Text messaging for summoning	\$2,845	\$174	\$2,671
TOTAL	\$6,338,910	\$5,044,248	\$1,294,662

*Table reflects encumbrances as of 2/5/2021



Iowa Judicial Branch Finances



Division of Funding

State funding:

- **Judges and court staff**
- **Information technology**
- **Continuing education**
- **Furniture and equipment**

County funding:

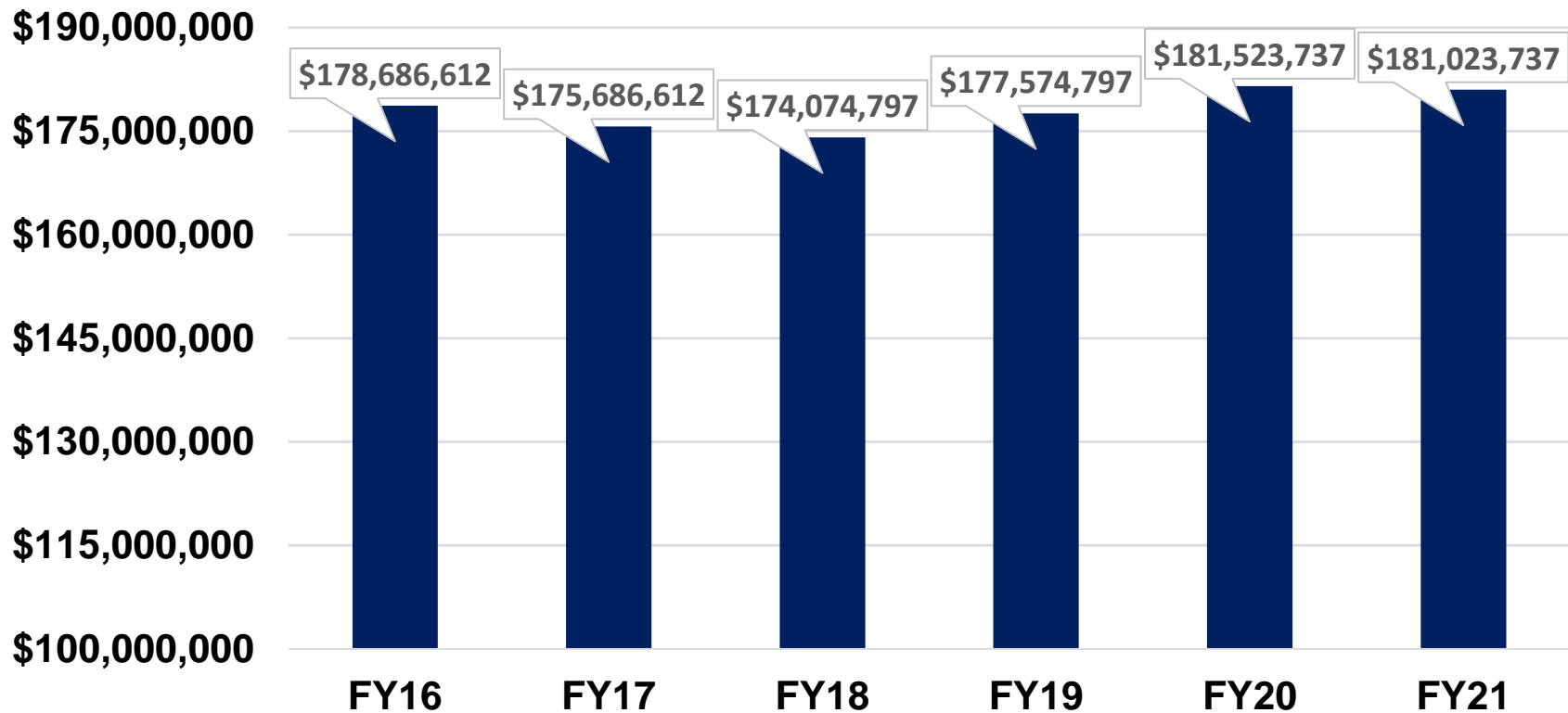
- **Courthouses**
- **Court security**



General Fund Appropriation History

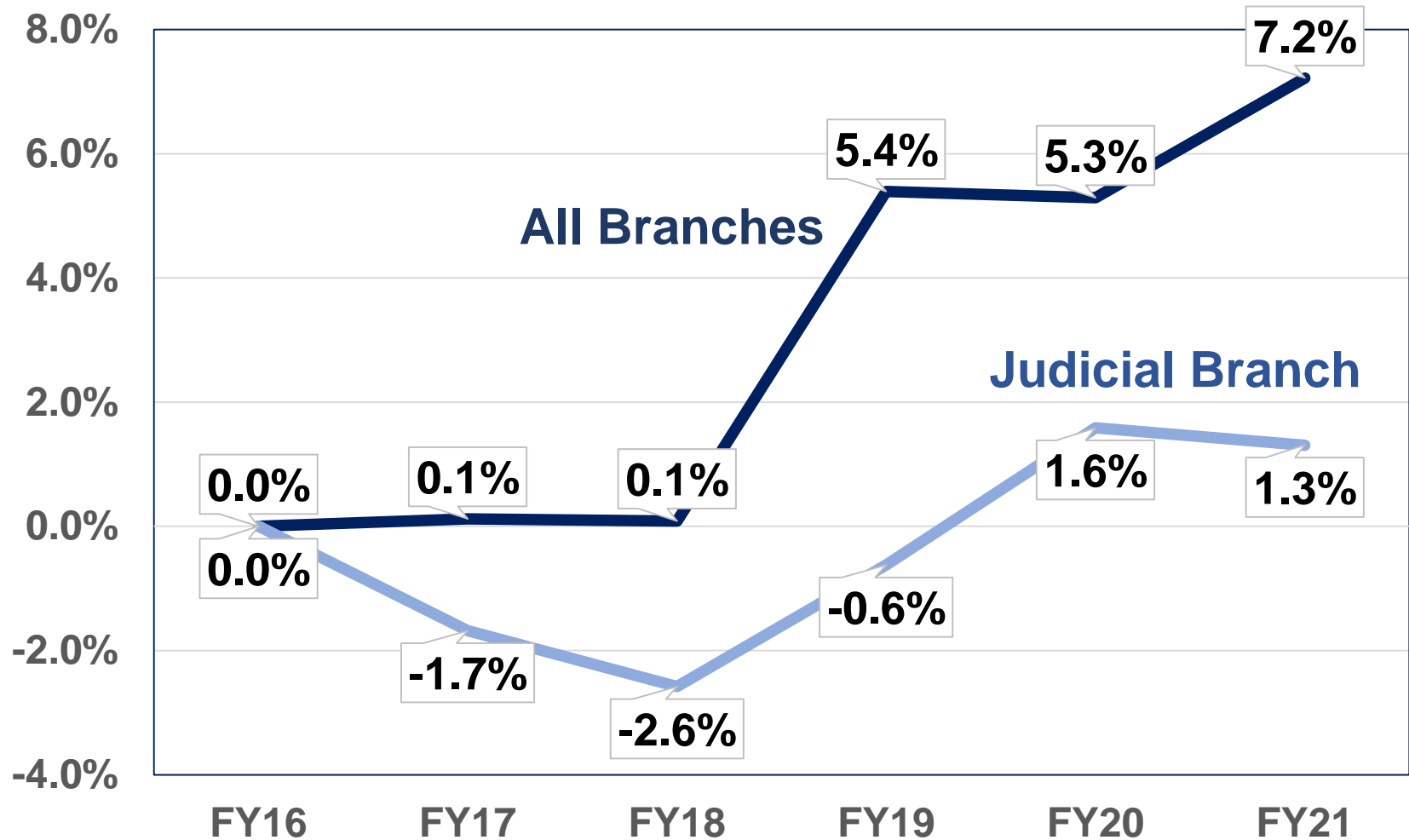
(excluding jury and witness fund)

FY16 – FY21
1.3% Increase





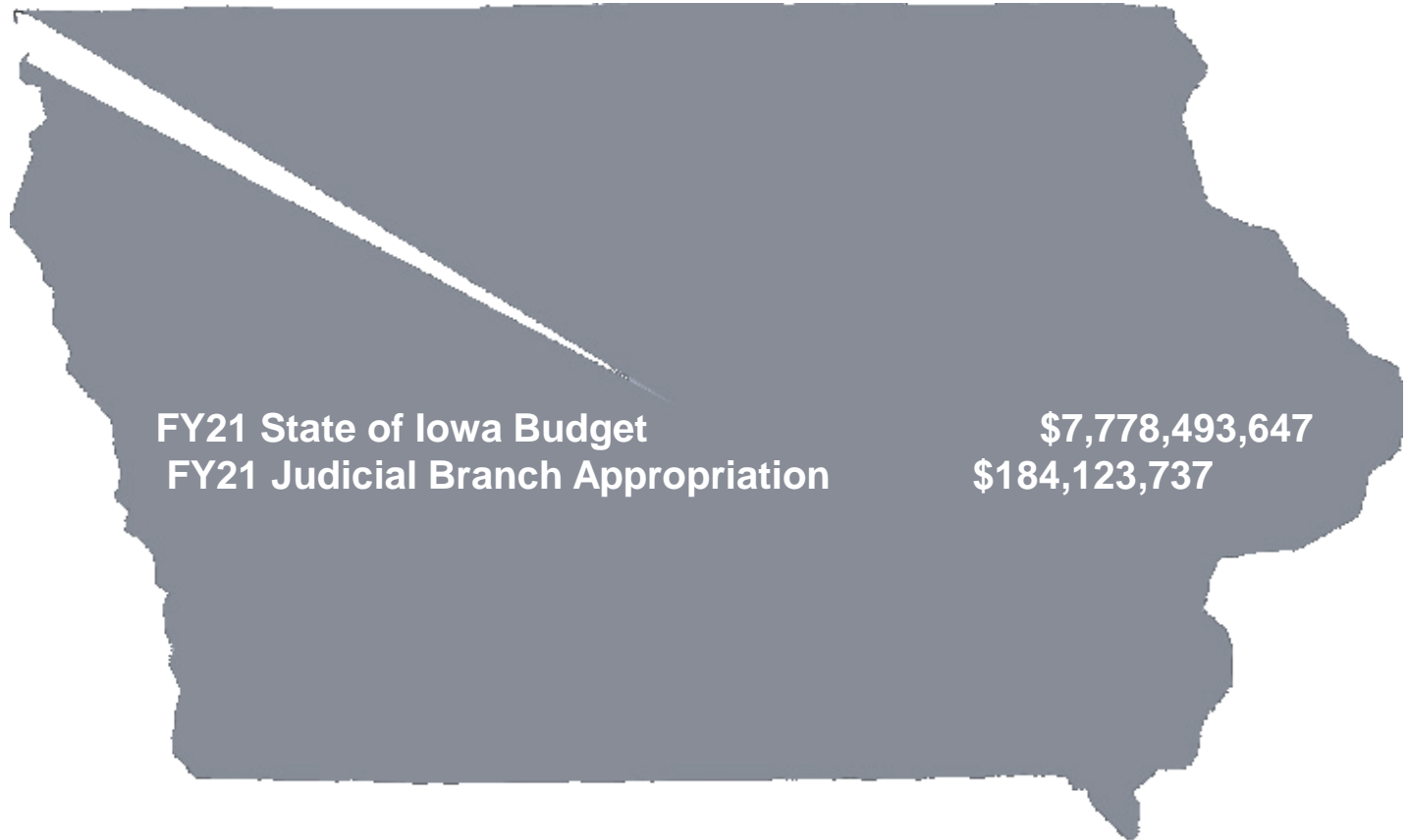
Judicial Branch and State Budget Change Since FY 2016





Judicial Branch Funding as Percent of State Budget

2.4%





Iowa Court Clerk Revenue Collections – FY 2020

Fines, infractions, civil penalties, LE surcharge	\$50,428,178
Miscellaneous court fees and items	\$19,325,129
Court costs	\$16,418,774
County and city fines, fees, surcharges, etc.	\$17,287,009
Filing fees	\$14,584,860
Criminal surcharges	\$15,555,864
Indigent defense reimbursement	\$3,545,155
Total	\$137,144,970



FY22 Judicial Branch Budget Request

Description	Amount
FY21 judicial branch appropriation	\$181,023,737
FY21 judicial branch jury and witness budget	\$3,100,000
FY22 new funding request details:	
• Restore base service levels	\$3,797,749
• Investing in rural communities	\$1,017,701
• Investing in human capital (judicial officers)	\$1,423,604
• Judicial specialist human capital market adjustment	\$1,057,549
• Investing in access to justice	\$83,055
• Investing in human capital (new judicial officers & support staff)	\$1,479,230
• Technology infrastructure support	\$229,902



FY22 Budget Request

Restore base service levels

- To balance the branch budget for the FY21:
 - Positions vacant on June 30, 2020 were frozen for all of FY21.
 - Any position (including judicial officers, but excluding court reporters and law clerks) that became vacant since July 1, 2020, was subject to a 90-day hold for roughly the first half of the fiscal year.
 - Reductions were also made to travel, supplies and routine furniture purchases.
- To restore the base service levels \$3,797,749 is needed.
- This does not include any amount to fund changes in compensation specified in a new collective bargaining agreement (or parallel changes in compensation for non-contract positions).



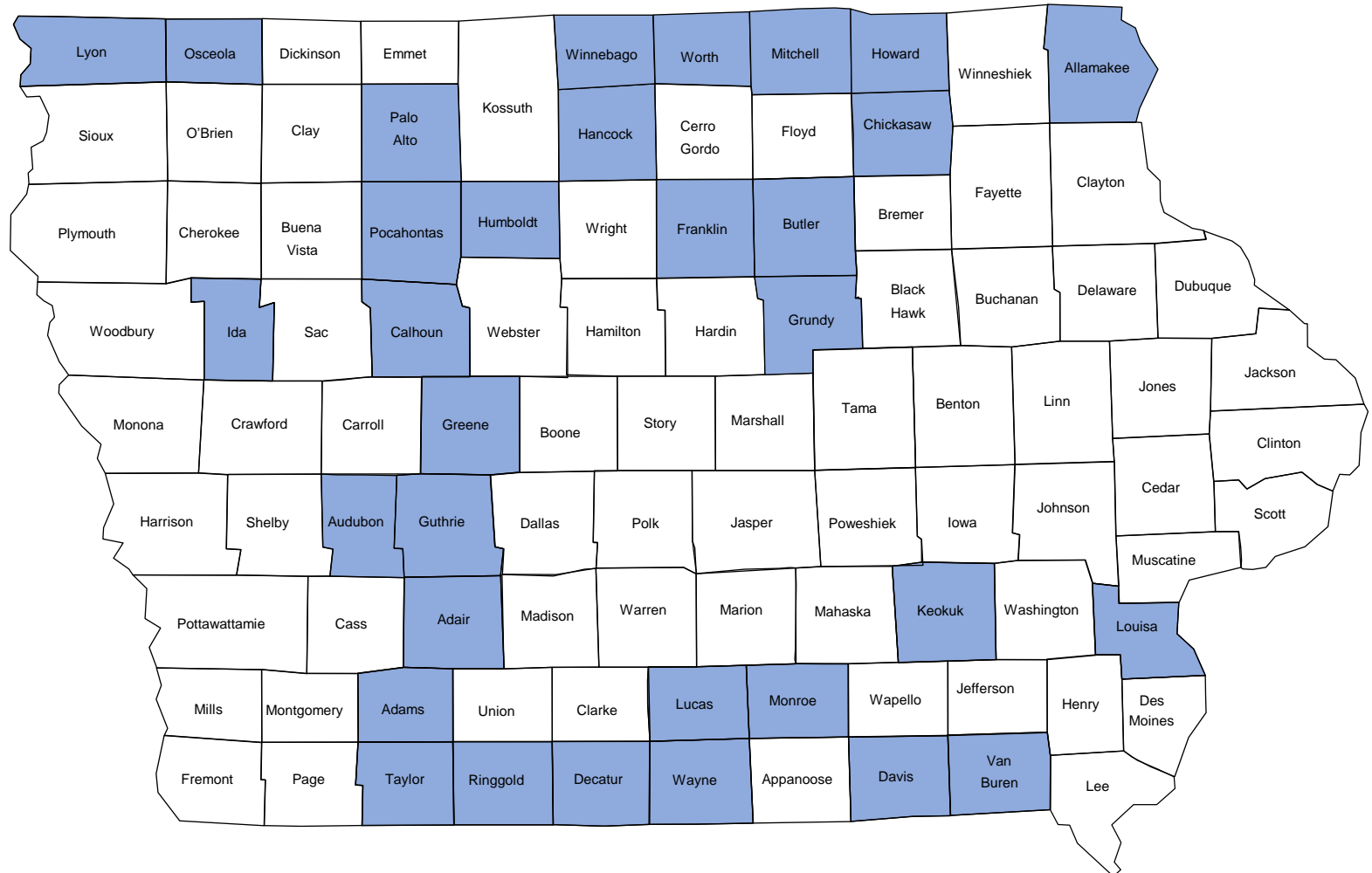
FY22 Budget Request

Investing in rural communities

- This proposal seeks to strengthen ties with rural communities and to offer a full complement of services on a full-time basis. Staffing in clerk of court offices in 32 counties is below the recommended level of 2.5 staff (funded FTE).
- A minimum of 2.5 clerk positions is recommended in each courthouse to ensure safety, fiscal responsibility, full-time coverage, and full-service.
- To meet this minimum standard across the state, 17 additional positions are needed (\$1,017,701).
- According to the most recent calculations using the workload formula developed by the National Center for State Courts, 17 additional clerks are needed statewide to timely process the current overall workload.



FY21 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Rural Courts Initiatives



Counties with fewer than 2.5 clerks



FY22 Budget Request

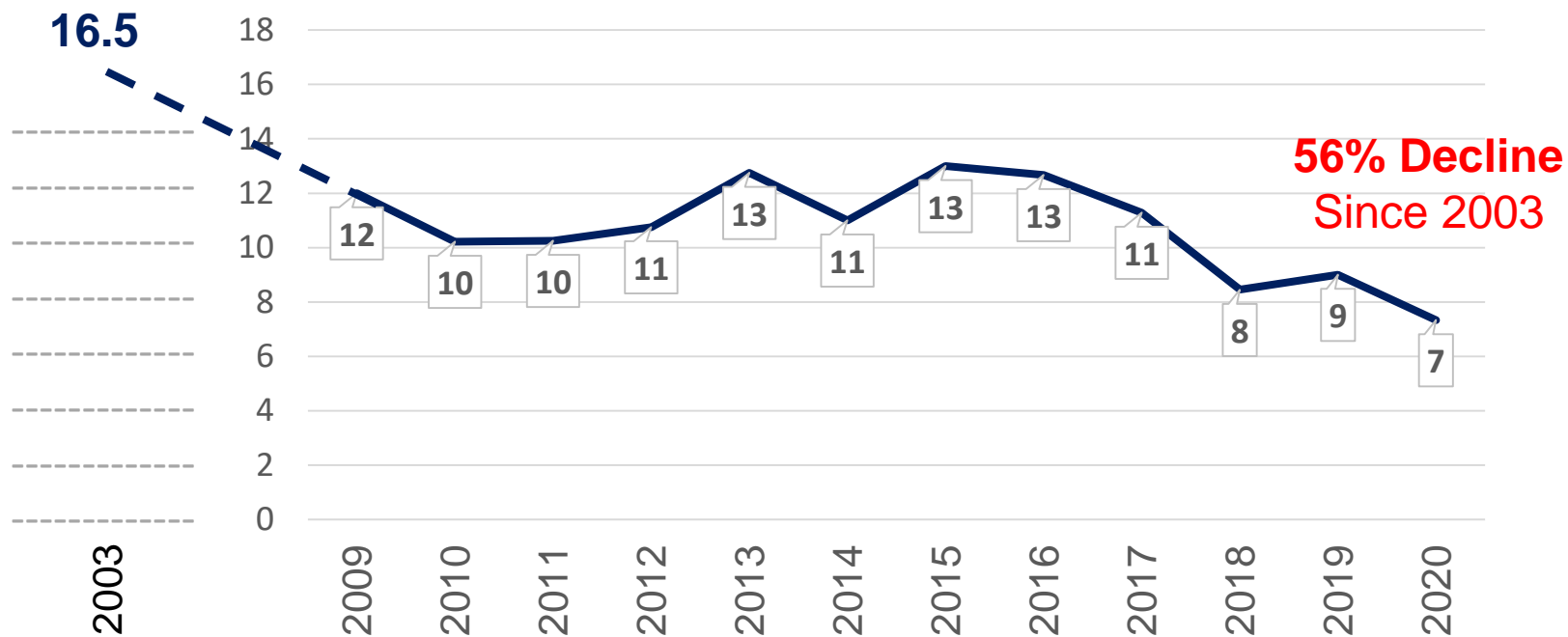
Investing in human capital (judicial officers)

- Judicial officers and employees are members of every community. The education, experience, and abilities of these individuals are the best assets of the judicial branch.
- To support continued success, we are requesting \$1,423,604 (3% increase) for judge and magistrate salaries.
- The overall number of applicants for open positions has been declining.



FY21 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Human Capital Initiatives

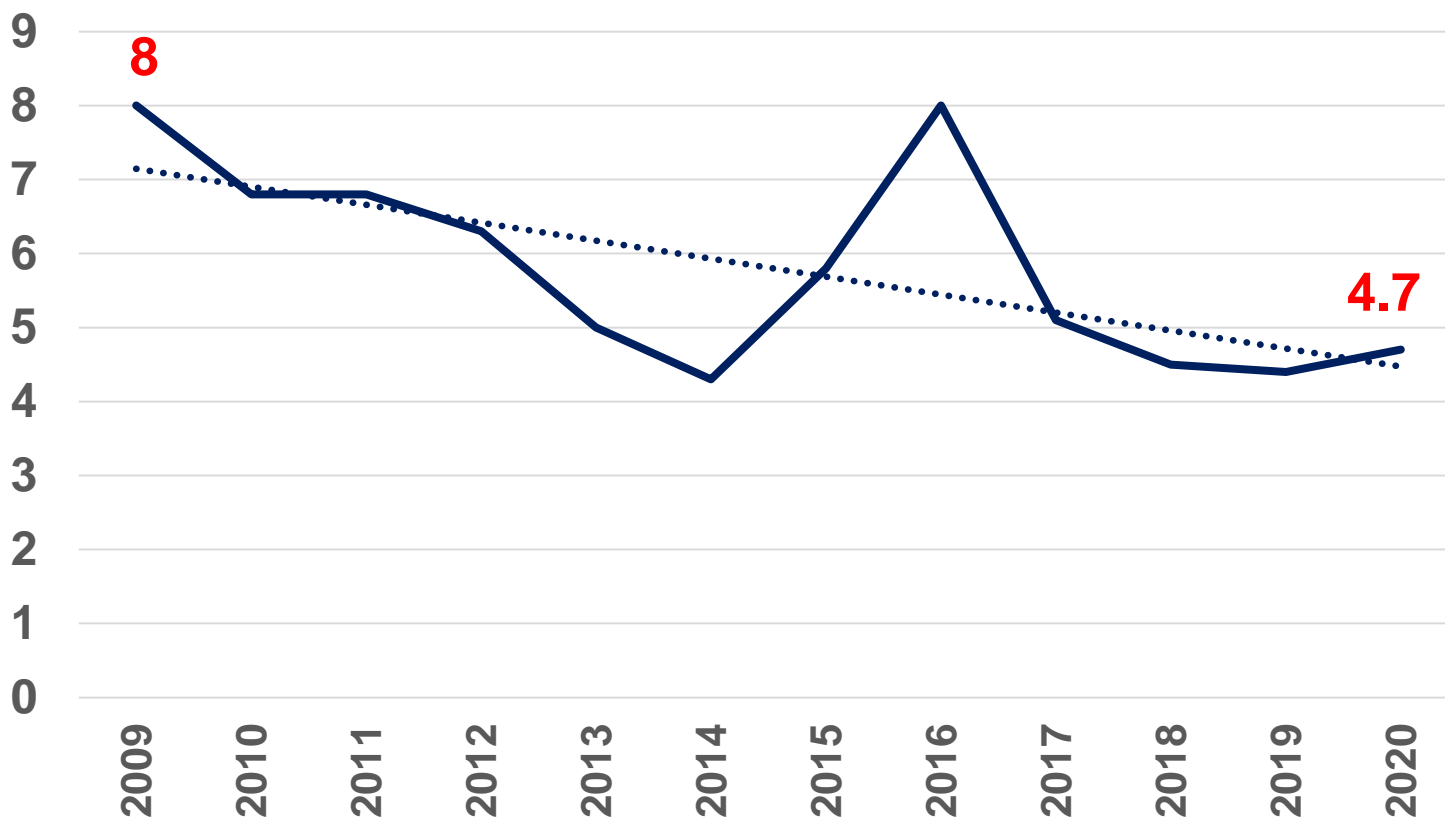
**Average number of applicants per
district court judge vacancy
from 2003 to 2020**





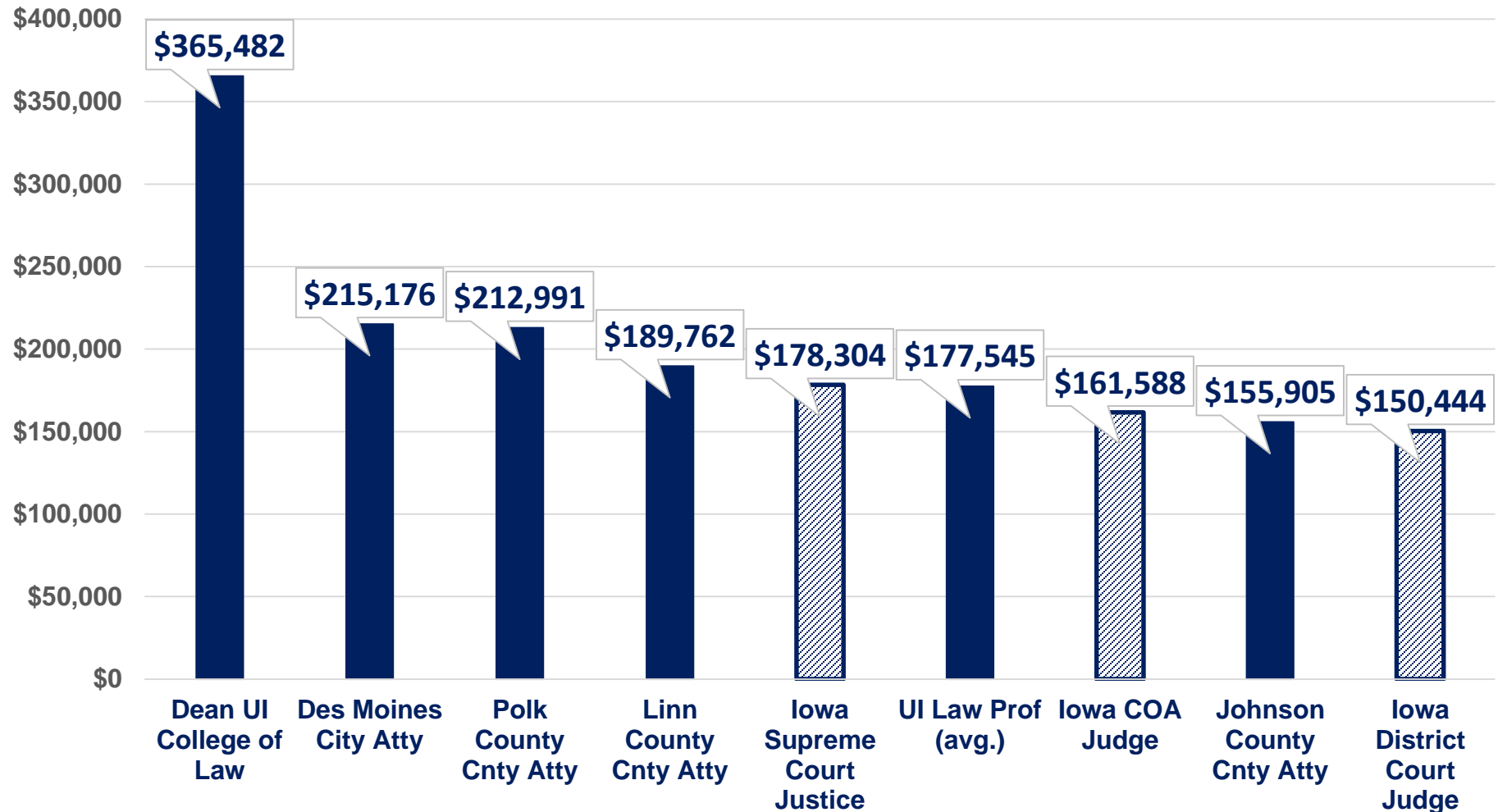
FY21 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Human Capital Initiatives

Average number of private practice
applicants per district court judge
vacancy 2009 to 2020





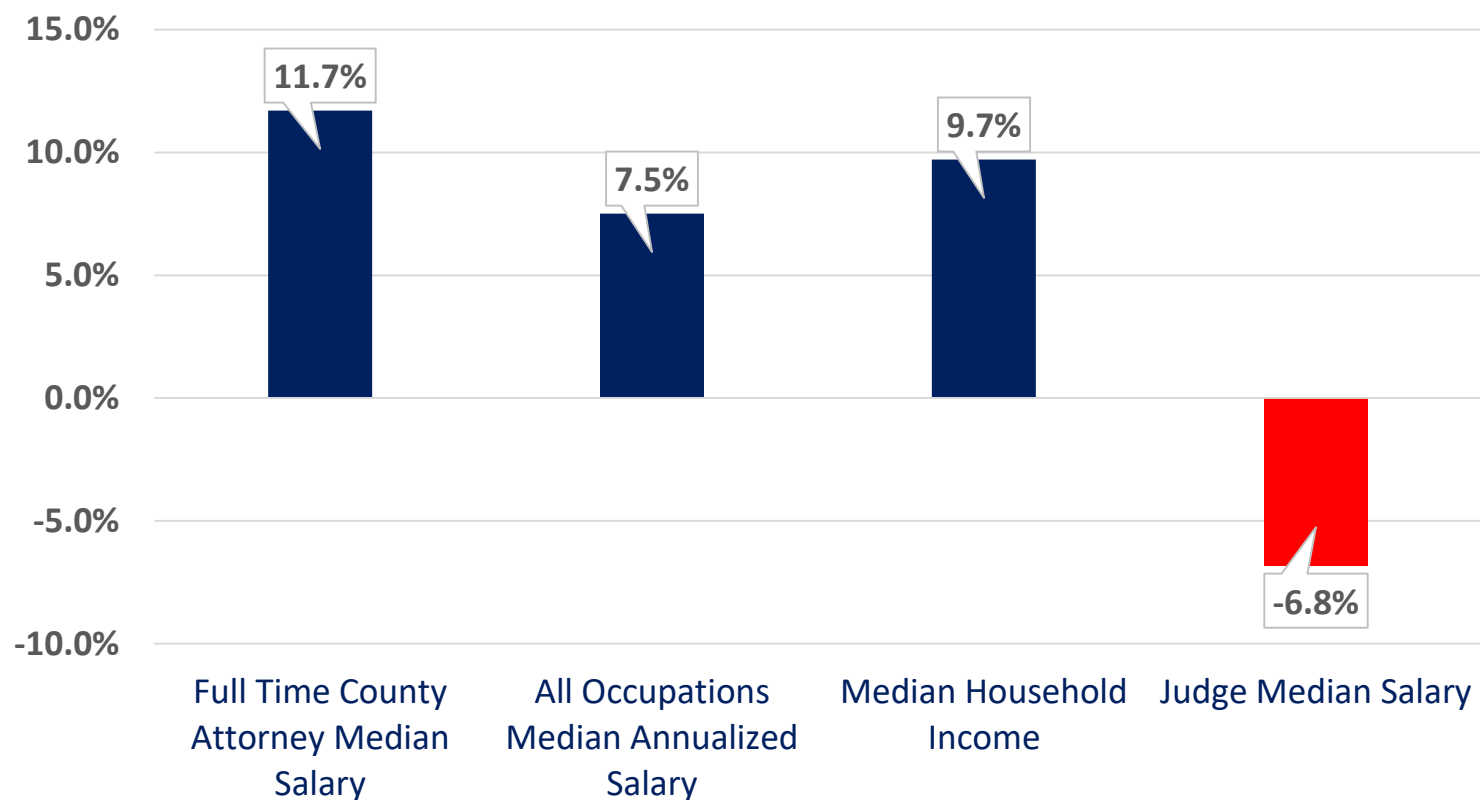
FY21 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Human Capital Initiatives





FY21 Judicial Branch Budget Request: Human Capital Initiatives

Inflation-Adjusted Real Wage/Income Change in Iowa: 2010-2019





FY22 Budget Request

Judicial specialist human capital market adjustment

- To keep our non-judicial officer salaries competitive, we are requesting \$1,057,549.
- All non-judicial officer positions within the branch are evaluated on a staggered four-year cycle to ensure compensation is in alignment with the market.
- Judicial specialist positions, which are the primary staff in clerk offices, were evaluated this current cycle. The findings of our analysis indicate adjustments are needed. We are seeking the funding so the branch attracts and maintains quality personnel.



FY22 Budget Request

Investing in access to justice

- National data for civil and domestic relations cases reveals that approximately 25% of the cases have lawyers on both side, 50% have a lawyer on one side, and 25% are self-represented on both sides.
- The Iowa Judicial Branch has been working diligently to better serve self-represented individuals through use of online interactive forms and online dispute resolution platforms.
 - Released online interactive forms for both small claims actions and dissolution without children.
 - Online dispute resolution programs in three pilot counties:
 - Carroll – Traffic Cases
 - Black Hawk – Small Claims (Money Owed) Cases
 - Story – Forcible Entry and Detainer (Eviction) Cases
 - The Story County program being developed calls for the creation of a navigator position (\$83,055)



FY22 Budget Request

Investing in human capital (new judicial officers and related staff)

- According to the workload formula developed by the National Center for State Courts, Iowans need 30 additional judges to process the current judicial branch workload.
 - 10 district judge positions
 - 20 district associate judge positions
- We renew our funding request (\$1,479,230) for four district associate judges and 10 related support positions (e.g. court reporters, judicial specialists, law clerks).
- Request is part of a five-year plan to address this judicial officer deficit.



FY22 Budget Request

Technology infrastructure support

- Requesting funding (\$229,902) for IT positions to support technology infrastructure including:
 - online interactive forms
 - online dispute resolution (ODR) platform
 - electronic warrants
 - electronic reminders
 - VOIP phone systems
- The work of IT staff often goes unseen, but they are essential to providing the front-line staff with the tools and support they need to deliver services to the public.



**Proposed
Judicial Branch
Court Interpreter
Bill
(HSB70/SSB1108)**



Court Interpreter Bill (HSB70/SSB1108)

- If passed, the bill would transfer responsibilities for payment of oral language interpreters from the State Public Defender to the Judicial Branch.
- This would necessitate moneys from the Indigent Defense Fund in the amount of \$499,876 to be transferred to the Jury, Witness and Interpreter Fund.
- ***No increase in costs to the State's General Fund!***

